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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AUSTRALIA.

Suspected plague at Newcastle—Confirming cablegram of March 21.

NEWCASTLE, NEW SOUTH WALES, *April 4, 1902.*

SIR: I beg to inform you that I sent the following cable to you on March 21, 1902: "Department of State, Washington, D. C., plague, Goding." But 1 case has yet occurred and that is convalescent, yet several other suspects are under observation. I, with most of the medical profession here, have grave doubts as to its being a case of true bubonic plague.

Respectfully,

F. W. GODING,
United States Consul.

HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Weekly report of conditions and transactions at Belize—Fruit port.

BELIZE, BRITISH HONDURAS, *May 18, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the conditions and transactions at this port during the week ended May 18, 1902:

Population according to census of 1901, 9,113; present officially estimated population, 7,000. Number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from smallpox during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from typhus fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from cholera during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from plague during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes during the week, 5. Causes of death, phthisis, 1; debility, 2; enteritis, 1; tetanus, 1. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels: May 15, steamship *Geo. Dumois*; crew, 19; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; baggage disinfected, none. May 16, steamship *Anselm*; crew, 40; passengers from this port, 7; passengers in transit, 11; baggage disinfected, 13 pieces.

Respectfully,

R. H. PETERS,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CHINA.

Plague and cholera in Canton—Precautions against spread.

[No. 189.]

CANTON, CHINA, *April 17, 1902.*

SIR: In further continuation of my No. 184, regarding the spread of Asiatic cholera in Canton and vicinity, I have the honor to report as follows:

On Wednesday, April 16, 1902, I received the following report from

Dr. John M. Swan, the chief physician in charge of the American Medical Mission Hospital, Canton:

CANTON, CHINA, April 16, 1902.

SIR: In connection with our out-patient clinic to-day I obtained reliable information of a rather sudden outbreak of bubonic plague in a town of about 10,000 inhabitants located about 5 miles south from Canton and not far beyond what is known as the Macao Fort. Several tens of cases are occurring each day according to my informant, though he at first said 100 cases a day. My closer questioning brought the number he was certain of to probably 40 or 50. There is no question but in this town called Ping Chau plague is epidemic and of sudden and only recent appearance.

So far as I can learn on careful inquiry there is almost no plague here in the city of Canton at present. Cholera has also abated to a considerable extent, though there are still some cases occurring in Honam. Any further reliable information I can get in this line I will forward to you promptly.

Respectfully,

JOHN M. SWAN, M. D.

Hon. R. M. McWADE, *United States Consul, Canton, China.*

Acting on the foregoing information, I cabled to the Department as follows, duplicating the dispatch to Minister Conger at Peking:

SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington, D. C.*: Bubonic plague epidemic Ping Chau, south of Canton. Several cases Canton. Cholera disappeared here, abating Honam.

McWADE.

We have had several heavy rains since my previous dispatch, with the result that the sewers and streets have been well flushed and the accumulated filth swept into the Canton river. The heavy rains also produced a decided amelioration in the cholera conditions, both in Canton, Honam, and Fati. It is feared, however, that we are on the eve of another visitation of bubonic plague. As this is what is known here as an "off" year, I do not anticipate a heavy mortality through that pestilence, neither do I expect it to be epidemic here. There are a number of towns on the southern seacoast and some large villages in the interior of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, which are visited by the plague every year, and on account of their filthy condition lose thousands of lives during this visitation. Recent reports from them are of a contradictory character.

Dr. W. J. W. Anderson, of the Wesleyan Mission, officially reported to me, this morning, that entire areas of large villages and market towns on the banks of the North river, near Shinkwanfu, are suffering terribly and have really been devastated by the ravages of smallpox and typhoid fever. He believes that the victims number *in toto* almost 1,000 per day. Shinkwanfu is about 300 miles from Canton and is reached by passenger junks, which occupy about a fortnight in making a single trip.

Dr. Anderson also reported that cholera and plague claim over 100 victims daily in Fatshan. Acting on his information I cabled to the Department as follows, transmitting a copy of my dispatch to Minister Conger:

SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington, D. C.*: Whole villages banks North River vicinity Shinkwanfu devastated smallpox typhoid. Fatshan suffering cholera plague.—McWADE.

The Hongkong Telegraph of April 9, 1902, published the following brief article, which is self explanatory:

Plague and cholera precautions in Canton.

For the last two days, the city has been filled with proclamations issued by the Nam Hoi and Pun U magistrates re the precautions to be taken against plague and cholera. The inhabitants are to have all their houses cleaned and disinfected, and no water is to be drunk unless properly boiled and diluted with certain medicinal acids. It appears

that the American consul in Canton is responsible for this matter, as we are informed that the Chinese officials were at a loss to know how to check the diseases and finally had recourse to the American consul, who advised them what to do.

The proclamations referred to in the foregoing newspaper article were issued jointly by the Nam Hoi and Pun U magistrates by the commands of H. E. Tao Mu, viceroy of the Two Kwangs, and in addition to being posted in the streets of Canton and Honam, were published in all the Chinese newspapers. I inclose clippings from two of the Chinese newspapers, the Achow Yat Po and the On Nga Shu Koh, containing the proclamations. I also inclose translations of the proclamations.

Respectfully,

ROBERT M. MCWADE,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

Proclamation issued for the prevention of cholera.

The ways of precaution against cholera must be firmly done and must not only be by speaking from the mouth.

Now, the Nam Hoi and Pun U magistrates have issued the following proclamation :

We have jointly and respectfully received a communication from H. E., the Viceroy, reading as follows :

I am in receipt of a dispatch from the Hon. Robert M. McWade, United States consul at Canton, saying that the alarming prevalence of cholera in Canton, Honam, and vicinity induce me to suggest to your excellency the propriety of issuing a proclamation embodying the following rules for the better protection and safety of the lives of the natives and foreigners alike :

"All the streets, large and small, and all the drains should be thoroughly flushed with water from the river, and especially where animal matter and other refuse is usually allowed to collect.

"After being thoroughly flushed with water from the river, the drains should also have lime profusely scattered therein.

"All decayed or unripe fruit and vegetables should be immediately destroyed and the sale thereof severely punished.

"All vegetables should be thoroughly well cooked before being eaten.

"Under no circumstances should water be drunk or used for family purposes until it has been boiled for at least half an hour.

"Cleanliness of person, of all clothing, of cooking and other utensils and of the interior of every household is essentially necessary.

"An excellent precaution against cholera is, for each person to take twice every day five drops of aromatic sulphuric acid in a glass of water which has been well boiled. A small bottle of aromatic sulphuric acid can be easily procured at the Canton hospital."

I feel satisfied, your excellency, that a proper observance of the foregoing rules will be the means of preventing the spread of the cholera and of saving many human lives.

If I can be of any personal service in this important matter, or in any other, it will be a pleasure to me.

At present I find that cholera is spreading in the vicinities of Canton, and when I lately received the communication from the Hon. James Scott, British consul-general, and the commissioner of Canton customs, Mr. Ma, I immediately forwarded to the said magistrates, etc., instructing them to act according to last year's method by summoning and ordering all the gentries and elders to caution for its prevalence and at the same time to issue proclamations advising the people that they must not have any of the filth piled up in heaps as they pleased, and insist upon the Taepo (chief watchman) of the different streets to clean all the streets every day, with the hope that the disease will be exterminated, and report to me, with full particulars of their proceeding, for my consideration.

And, again, we have respectfully received the communication from the honorable British consul-general, through his excellency the viceroy, stating as before, so that besides replying to his excellency the viceroy, ordering all the gentries and informing the municipal board, etc., accordingly, we have the right to inform you (soldiers and people) by proclamation that all of you must understand that the prevalence of the disease is caused through all the dirty things, and that hereafter you must keep the streets clean and must not collect any filth thereof as you pleased, then the disease will be utterly extinguished, so everyone of you must not fail to obey.